

# SPOKE

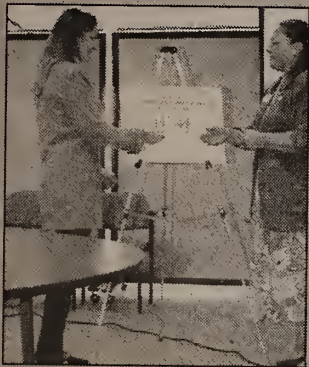
Conestoga College, Kitchener

30th Year — No.19

May 25, 1998

## What's Inside

### NEWS



Graphics student designs award-winning logo.

Page 2

### COLLEGE LIFE



The publishing world comes to Conestoga.

Page 2

### OFF CAMPUS



Student resource centre celebrates 30th anniversary.

Page 7

### COMMENTARY

India's bomb-Made in Canada

Coming of age

Page 4

Health care may get worse, says nurse

Page 5

## Conestoga faculty takes strike vote

By Michael Hilborn

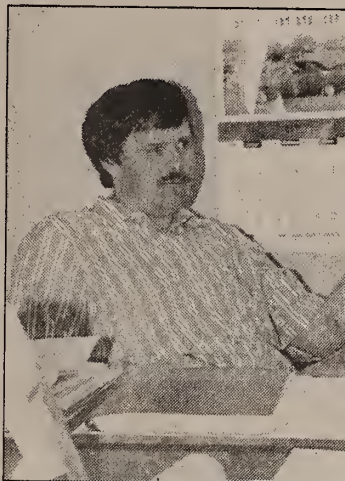
A vote by faculty of Conestoga and the other 24 Ontario community colleges on May 21 could have a profound affect on all college students.

The faculty members' vote was on whether or not to authorize a future strike to back contract demands, a strike which could leave students without classes.

A new offer from management May 15 would give teachers a three-per-cent raise on ratification and another two per cent Sept. 1, 1999, as well as add one step each year to the salary grid. But the union was still recommending members give it a strike mandate to further strengthen its bargaining hand, and promised there would not actually be a strike without members voting on whatever offer is on the table in September.

Doon Student Association President Kristin Murphy said in the event of a strike, the DSA would attempt to set up information offices outside the campus to keep students informed of their options. Until then, Murphy said, he preferred to keep out of the issue. "I don't want to take sides."

Walter Boettger is the president of Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), local 237, which represents the faculty of Conestoga in the negotiations.



Walter Boettger, OPSEU local president (Photos by Michael Hilborn)

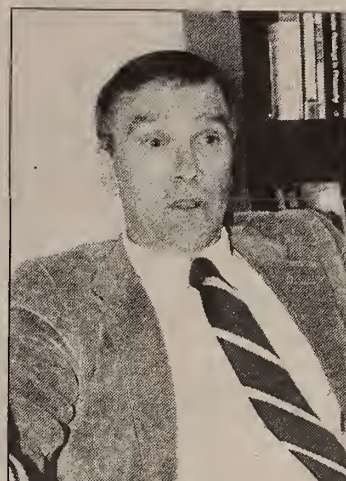
He said the major outstanding issues concern salaries, job security and what he calls reclassification.

According to Boettger, an earlier proposal from management could result in up to half of Conestoga's 225 professors, who have been working without a contract since Feb. 12, 1996, being designated as instructors. This would mean a reduction in salary of as much as \$15,000 a year.

"At one point they were saying they were interested in a transition period. We're not sure what criteria they would use for reclassifying people. We feel it would cause a huge change in morale," he said. "It would pit one teacher against another."

The local union president said he believes all current instructors should be "grandparented" and any new instructors should be hired from outside the college.

Furthermore, he said the new



John Tibbits, president of Conestoga College

contract should include all college faculties across the province. "We need consistency," he said.

The union president also said he believed that the students support the faculty.

"I've heard in the hallways, 'Where's my teacher?' They're (the students) not too pleased with alternate delivery (of education)," he said.

Conestoga president John Tibbits, co-chair of the college system's bargaining team, said as he sees it, a major obstacle to a settlement is the union's insistence on a single, province-wide deal.

"I would like to sit down with our people and bargain locally."

Tibbits claims settling on an individual college basis would be more practical and logical, since the parties know one another and the situation varies across the province. "The culture at Conestoga is different than it is in the Soo (Sault Ste. Marie)," he

said. "Here the economy is booming, while up north, it is struggling."

Tibbits said he also has a problem with the union's insistence on job security. He said he thinks the union wants more money, more job security and no change. "We're open for business here for eight months of the year. This can't continue. More and more students are going to want to fast-track."

Tibbits said there must be flexibility within the system in order to keep up with the changing demands and requirements of the job market. "If people want job security, then we have to find more creative ways to deliver education. We have to be open to new ideas."

When asked about the tone of the negotiations, Boettger said things were "at a tense point." Tibbits said he didn't see any real animosity. "I imagine it's like watching paint dry," he said.

Tibbits said he found the slow pace of negotiations frustrating. He said he felt the union team was wasting a great deal of time by being unavailable for meetings.

According to Tibbits, the union team is still being paid full-time to handle the negotiations and has no real incentive to expedite matters. "If the taxpayers knew about this, they'd be off the wall," he said.

One area on which both sides seem to agree is the length of the new contract. Both Boettger and Tibbits said they were comfortable with a three- or four-year deal.

Boettger said if faculty approves a strike mandate, there will be one more opportunity to submit a new offer before an actual walkout.

## Meeting the public need

## Continuing education to offer new programs

By Casey Johnson

This summer Conestoga College is offering more than 36 new continuing education programs, some of which have been modified from part-time courses.

"The fast-track programs are courses with a condensed time frame," said Nancy Sinclair, a part-time continuing education coordinator.

For example, the critical care course, available to registered nurses, is a very exciting program, she said, because it meets the needs of the community and the needs of nurses.

"There is a pending nursing shortage. We have already seen it in urgent care clinics and already seen it in this area," she said.

This fast-track program will enable the nurses to graduate from the program earlier than if they took it part-time, said Sinclair.

There are other courses, such as

the complimentary therapies program, that are expected to become fast-track courses in the fall, she said.

It is not just fast-track courses that are new. There are also full-time courses which have been

"The fast-track programs are courses with a condensed time frame."

Nancy Sinclair, co-ordinator, continuing education

modified so a student can register part-time.

For example, a student may now enrol in the general business diploma program and not have to do it full-time.

Also, retired law and security (LASA) coordinator, Bob Hays,

who is still active in the department, said, "the full-time LASA program will be specializing in police education as well as the private sector, investigation and security in the fall."

The new LASA continuing education programs available will attempt to support this process as well.

Dave Stewart, the director of Conestoga's continuing education department, said that new programs are necessary in order to keep people's attention.

"Nobody wants to look at the same Sears catalogue over and over again. You need variety or people are just not interested," he said.

One of the questions Stewart asked when he began his position as director was, "How were the new ideas coming in for programs going to be kept interesting and current?" But the new ideas were not a problem, according to

Stewart.

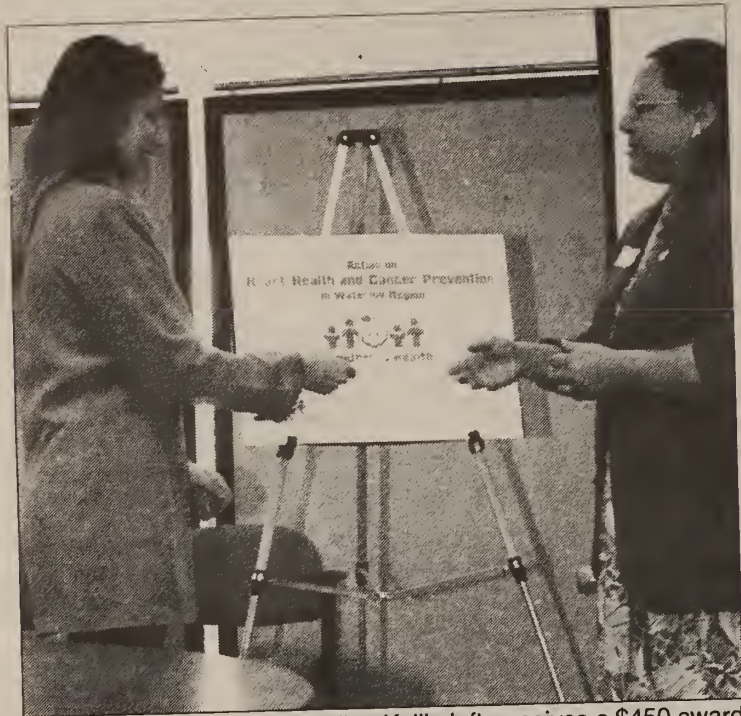
"We (at the college) are approached all the time by members of the community, as well as by full- and part-time faculty who suggest new programs for the campuses," he said.

"We also research and stay close to the needs of the community."

Stewart said that the constant evolution of continuing education courses, and the extensions of the already established full-time programs that become continuing education programs, compliment the solid anchor courses that are already available.

"There is a certain marketing strategy that comes with the structuring of the new courses," said Stewart. "The bottom line is making money for the college. But, at the same time we are still serving the community the best way possible, by offering courses that are in demand and listening to what the community wants."





Graphic design student Karolina Kulik, left, receives a \$450 award from Judy Hyde of the Action on Heart Health and Cancer Network on May 13. (Photo by Anita Santarossa)

## Graphics artist wins \$450 award for cancer logo

By Anita Santarossa

**A first-year graphic design student at Conestoga College received an award of \$450 at the Waterloo Region head office in Kitchener, May 13, for creating the Action on Heart Health and Cancer logo.**

Karolina Kulik, 22, was one of four finalists chosen out of 36 entrants, primarily Conestoga College students and the general public. After being chosen as one of the top four, she revised her logo and created business cards and letterhead before the judges' final decision was made.

"As an extra project [counted as part of her course credit] I entered the contest," said Kulik in an interview at the AHHC spring network meeting.

"Though it was very time consuming and difficult to balance my schedule, the money was a definite incentive for me entering the contest." This was the first time Kulik has won an award for something she has created.

Her logo was hand-drawn, not computer generated. The original design included four colors, but the final copy had to be reduced to two for financial and reproduction reasons, said Kulik.

Kulik did not expect the graphic design course to be so much work, however, she said she is enjoying the program.

"It is very rewarding when you do something and see the results," she said.

Judy Hyde, area manager for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and public relations chairperson for AHHC, said judges for the

36 entries included one community member with no previous graphic design experience, two graphic design artists and one representative from the public health unit.

"We wanted different people with different opinions and backgrounds," said Hyde. "The public health official monitored the logos so they did not represent other committees' logos."

The AHHC network is partly funded by the Ministry of Health and is in its first year of a five-year implementation program. Hyde said that the government is implementing these networks to improve the health of Canadians.

"Our network will work together with businesses, local government, other non-profit networks, schools and the health unit, to combat heart disease and cancer," said Hyde.

The recent cutbacks in Ontario's health care system have forced the government and communities to take action, said Susan Close, co-chairperson of the AHHC meeting.

"The network system is one step toward the solution of controlling these two very prominent diseases in the region."

With \$95,000 from the Ministry of Health and some funding from the Waterloo Region community, the network plans to reduce the percentage of smokers, increase nutrition and increase physical activity.

"The idea of this collaborative effort is to make an impact on people's lives," said Close.

Heart disease and cancer combined represented two-thirds of all deaths in the Waterloo Region in 1994, stated the February 1997 community profile, titled Heart Disease and Cancer in Waterloo Region.

"Though these statistics may be dated they show an apparent need for improvement," said Close. "Information for a more updated provincial analysis is currently being collected."

## Publishers compete for sales

By Casey Johnson

Sitting alone beside her Canadian Scholars' Press Inc. booth, Catherine Travelle was reading a novel waiting for a member of Conestoga's faculty or staff to approach her.

The sales representative was one of 27 individuals who set up booths at Conestoga College's 11th annual book fair in the Blue Room, next to the cafeteria on May 12.

"The whole idea of having so many publishers present under one roof is great for the college, but as far as the publishers are concerned, it can be very competitive," said Travelle.

"A lot of the larger publishers have similar books, so the idea is to convince the buyer that your books are the best."

One prospective buyer attending the event was the coordinator of Doon's broadcasting — radio and television program, Mike Thurnell.

"The event gives instructors a great opportunity to see what's out there. There is an amazing variety," he said. "I use a text as reference for new curriculum ideas."

Before purchasing a book,

Thurnell evaluates the text from three perspectives.

"First, I look at versatility," he said. "I hate making a student buy an \$80 textbook for just one course. Second, I look at content. I ask myself, 'How well does it cover the content of the course, and is it relative to it?'. Then, I look at price."

"...the idea is to convince the buyer that your books are the best."

Catherine Travelle

Thurnell said although he has the ultimate decision as to which texts are used in the program, his instructors also have a tremendous amount of input on the subject.

He added that the idea of having a book fair is a much better concept than having the publishing representatives go one-on-one with the individual instructors.

Jill Douglas, Conestoga's co-coordinator for the Learning Resource Centre, agreed with Thurnell.

"This way the faculty can also

give the centre input about the extra resource material that should maybe be acquired by the centre," she said.

The process for putting the fair together is pretty straight forward, said Douglas.

The publishers are first notified by mail or telephone prior to the book fair. Once a mutual date has been determined, the invitations are sent out. If a publisher is not sent an invitation, their company is usually welcome to attend, added Douglas.

"This is the second year in a row that we have had 27 representatives from the publishing industry attend."

Myrna Nicholas, Conestoga's peer services administrator, said that she really enjoyed the book fair.

"All the representatives from the different publishing companies were very helpful. Student services purchased a text that will help students in the Owen Lackenbauer literacy lab with their studies in math, grammar and study skills," she said.

Nicholas said that the text will enable the student services counsellors to more effectively assist students who come to them for guidance.



Broadcasting — radio and television coordinator Mike Thurnell discusses a book purchase with NTC/Contemporary sales representative Sara Woods, May 12. (Photo by Casey Johnson)



Shelley Reid, left, art consultant at Sitzhenry and Whiteside publishers, speaks to Myrna Nicholas, peer services administrator, at the book fair held at the Doon campus of Conestoga on May 12. (Photo by Amanda Fickling)



# Technology students win memorial award

*Electronics engineering students from Doon campus win grant from local industry*

By Jason Gennings

Jonathan Brubacher received his first cheque for \$2,000, part of the Keith Prichard Award, from S-S Technologies CEO Rick Brock, on Friday, May 15.

Electronics engineering technology students Jonathan Brubacher and Chris Coggins, who was unable to attend, will each receive \$2,000 a year for the rest of their program.

This is an award from Kitchener-based S-S Technologies in memory of their late president and Conestoga graduate Keith Prichard.

"This is the most prestigious student award that I've encountered," said Taylor Zomer, co-ordinator in the electronic technology faculty at Conestoga College.

After graduating from electronics engineering technology at Conestoga College in 1971, Prichard went on to a number of engineering positions.

In 1986, working out of his basement, Prichard helped develop a real-time simulator for testing logic control-based systems and training operators.

Prichard also developed interface cards to allow a computer to link directly to an industrial network.

By 1991 Prichard was moving up at S-S Technologies and became president in 1992. Prichard died in an accident on Labor Day weekend in 1996.

Conestoga College gave Prichard the Alumnus of Distinction award for the School of Technology in June of 1997.

Brock said the award was to give financial aid to someone with Keith's values.

"It's fair to say that Keith was not a weak academic, but very,

very confident," said Brock. "He was a risk taker, that's the sort we're looking for."

To apply for the award, electronics technology students had to demonstrate financial need, give a resume and a letter on their personal qualities and submit academic transcripts.

The S-S CEO said there is

integrity and leadership, said Brock.

"The award is for someone who, down the road, is going to be involved in the community and someone who is going to be a leader," said Brock.

Nancy Suttie, also of S-S Technologies, said they were going to do interviews as part of

and program there were some mixed responses.

Brock said that the type of students the award is meant for would be motivated with or without the award.

Doon faculty member Bob Coons said the standards S-S Technologies sets really promotes the desire to keep standards high

better because we set the bar a little higher," said Coons.

"We have industry saying, 'Hey, we hire your guys and we care deeply what kind of guys we get.'"

When presenting the award, Brock said he hoped Brubacher will consider S-S Technologies as an employer after he graduates, considering Conestoga College benefits from its relationship with the local industry.

"This company has an international reputation for excellence, so just the opportunity with a company like this is extremely valuable," said Mike McClements, dean of engineering technology at Conestoga.

"It's not just an award from a company but it's an award for S-S Technologies. That is fundamentally important."

McClements gave some details of the relationship between Conestoga College and S-S Technologies.

"Rick has been hiring the best graduates from the program for quite a number of years. S-S Technologies is one of the most important employers of our graduates."

Brock estimates there are 60 Conestoga graduates presently working at S-S Technologies.

"We have Conestoga grads working for us with PhD's within 10 years of graduating college," said the CEO.

The relationship goes even further, according to McClements. He said S-S Technologies has a 5-year commitment for \$50,000 per year to the electronics engineering technology program, as well as its partnership with Conestoga.

CEO Rick Brock will be speaking at the next technology convocation.



Taylor Zomer, left, and Mike McClements, second from left, of the engineering technology program at Conestoga College, were on hand for the first presentation of the Keith Prichard memorial award. The award was presented to Jonathan Brubacher, second from right, by Rick Brock, CEO for S-S Technologies. Chris Coggins, not pictured, also received the grant and memorial award.

(Photo by Jason Gennings)

always some kind of reward for the one with the highest marks in the class, but this award puts more value on character.

Although Brubacher and Coggins are both top students, they also demonstrated initiative,

the selection process but found it wasn't necessary.

Brubacher and Coggins showed their personality in their resumes and their letters, said Brock.

When asked what effect the award would have on the students

at Conestoga, Coons said there is more from the company itself than the award for one or two students. The faculty has to improve their work, he said.

"When students come out of Conestoga College, they come out

## Off-campus

# NDP party puts pressure on the Harris government

NDP leader Howard Hampton joined student activists at Queen's Park on May 12 to demand that the Harris Conservatives stop their plans for tuition deregulation.

"I don't know how the Harris government can justify giving the wealthiest people in Ontario a tax gift while imposing a huge tax grab on students trying to get a good education," said Hampton in a recent press release.

In the past three years, the provincial Conservatives have increased tuition fees by 60 per cent. At the beginning of May, they deregulated graduate programs, as well as many undergraduate programs, in several post-secondary institutions.

"This is an incredible tax grab," said Wayne Lessard, NDP post-secondary education critic and MPP for Windsor-Riverdale. "The Harris Conservatives are closing the door on middle-income and lower-income students from being able to pursue the opportunities that they have."

"An advanced degree can lead to a ticket to a job," Lessard

continued, "but the Harris government is reserving all of these tickets for students and families who have money. It's time for this government to come to its senses and reserve this policy."

At the Queen's Park news conference, Hampton and Lessard were joined by Chris Ramsaroop, president of the University of Toronto Student Administration Council that represents 33,000 students; Andrea Moffat, vice-president of the University of Toronto S.A.C.; Shawn Stencil, external commissioner of the University of Toronto S.A.C.; and Holly Baines, vice-president of the University of Toronto Graduate Students Union that represents 10,000 students.

Also present were Joel Davison Harden, chair-elect of the Ontario Component of the Canadian Federation of Students; Alejandra Bravo, who is starting law school at Osgoode Hall in September 1998; and Jim Stewart, a student at the University of Toronto Medical School.

"We are calling on the Harris

government to put in place one of the key recommendations of our education policy discussion paper, *Not For Sale: the future of our own public education*, and immediately freeze all tuition fees," Hampton said.

In other news, Environment Minister Norm Sterling announced that his ministry has initiated action to annul a water-taking permit issued to a company that would have removed water from the Great Lakes.

In a press release issued May 14, Hampton said the Harris government has done the right thing by cancelling their permit to allow water to be taken from the Great Lakes.

"Finally the Environment Minister is doing the right thing," said Hampton. "It seems the only way to get the Harris Conservatives to do the right thing is to embarrass them into it."

The permit would have allowed for 600 million litres of water to be taken each year from Lake Superior for the next five years and sold to Asia.

"The Harris government has recognized that the NDP is right," said Hampton. "Ontario's water is not for sale to the highest bidder."

Over the past few weeks, Sterling repeatedly tried to defend the provincial Conservatives' granting of the water permit. According to the press release, Sterling attempted to hide behind the federal government by saying there was nothing he could

do.

"Finally, the Harris government has recognized that the NDP's position is the correct one," said NDP environment critic Marilyn Churley.

"I'm glad the minister has finally decided to own up to his responsibility and take action. I have to wonder why it took him two weeks to initiate this action when he should have done it on day one."

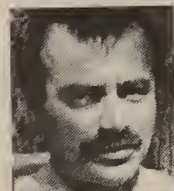
**Reading SPOKE can be  
good for you . . .**

**and  
that's no  
bull!**





# You want nukes? CANDU



Michael Hilborn

Just when you thought it was safe to convert your bomb shelter into a hydroponic marijuana farm, the game of nuclear brinkmanship was stepped up when India detonated five devices under the Pokaran desert near the Pakistani border. Canada, with the rest of

the world, reacted with predictable dismay and outrage when Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajapayee proudly declared to the world: "India is now a nuclear-weapons state."

Prime Minister Jean Chretien joined the other G-7 leaders at their meeting in Birmingham, England in condemning this as a disturbing and provocative act.

Unfortunately, Chretien is once again talking out of both sides of his mouth.

In the May 14th edition of the Globe and Mail, Chretien was quoted as saying that Canada was not culpable in this latest development in the arms race since it involved "old technology" that was given to India "20 or 25 years ago."

Excuse me? Let's review the facts.

In 1956, Canada sold India an experimental reactor for scientific research.

In the late 1960s, we decided to market our contribution to international stability, the CANDU reactor. We were so anxious to market this product that we gave India one with the option to buy two more at prices that were subsidized by Canadian tax payers.

CANDU stands for CANadian Deuterium Uranium, a reliable commercial power reactor that uses natural uranium as a fuel. Naturally, we also sold them a substantial quantity of fuel, since Canada is one of the

few places where it is available in quantity.

We also had the foresight to insist on India signing an agreement to use this technology only for commercial purposes and not to pursue a weapons program.

In 1974, India detonated a nuclear device that proved to have been made with plutonium, a man-made substance that is derived solely from the waste products of nuclear reactors. India's response to Canada's indignation was "Oops, we lied. Sorry about that."

There are two sources of weapons-grade material for nuclear devices. One is U235, otherwise known as enriched uranium.

Although simple in concept to use in a bomb, the logistical problems associated with its production and purification are beyond all but the most advanced and wealthy countries.

The other source is plutonium, which is difficult to work with but easy to produce in quantity, since reactors like the CANDU manufacture the stuff like chicken manure.

It is logical to assume that India has amassed a stockpile of nuclear weapons, which, combined with a standing army of over one million and a competent, well-equipped air force, makes it a legitimate military power.

Furthermore, there is evidence that at least one of the tests used a capsule of tritium (another by-product of the CANDU reactor) to boost the yield of the device by a factor of 10 or more.

This means that India is well on the way to developing a true H-bomb, powerful enough to annihilate a city like Toronto, New Delhi or Islamabad.

Meanwhile, 40 per cent of India's 900 million people live in poverty and half of them don't even have indoor plumbing.

The fact that India has had access to this technology for so long only makes Chretien's claim to born-again virginity look absurd at best and insulting at worst.

Ever since India's partition with Pakistan in 1947, there has been a state of

undeclared war between the two nations that simmers just beneath the surface. This is particularly true in the region of Kashmir, which is hotly disputed by both nations.

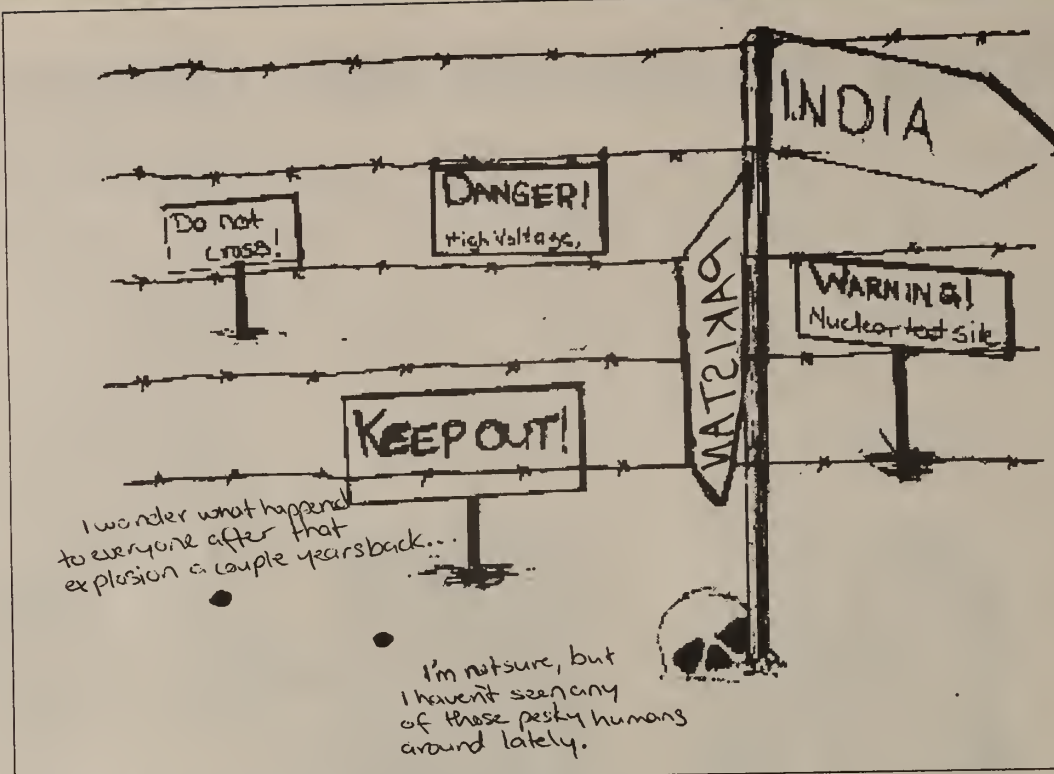
Pakistan is understandably concerned about these latest developments and has threatened to explode a bomb of its own.

Since both nations are believed to possess medium-range ballistic missiles, there exists the real possibility of a nuclear war in one of the most heavily populated regions of the planet.

Although the likelihood of such a conflict escalating to a global level is remote, the Rand Corporation, a United States-based think tank estimates that a full-scale nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan could result in the deaths of up to 100 million people.

If that unfortunate situation does occur, much of the blood will be on Canada's hands.

Shame on us.



2000 AD

## Long weekend mayhem

# No longer fun dodging the cops



Amanda Fickling

Camping, bonfires, drinking, reminiscing, partying, basking in the sun, and eating very little is what most long weekends are comprised of. For many Conestoga College students, I'm sure, this is exactly what took place this Victoria Day long weekend.

And I'm also sure everybody had a great time.

However, this year the "kick-off" weekend to summer did not appeal to me nearly as much as it had in the past.

I'm sure being in school for the summer had a lot to do with this unrecognizable feeling. Somehow it just didn't seem like I was getting a summer this year.

In the past it was unusual for me to miss a weekend at Grand Bend, even if I wasn't of age.

Hey, maybe that made it all the better! I was being a rebel, dodging the cops, having a couple of drinks here and there, and practically doing everything I shouldn't have been doing. I was cool.

Yeah right.

I think back now and realize what a moron I was, but I guess we all go through that stage, or so my parents say.

What is so appealing about going to a provincial park where there is a liquor ban and at least one of your friends gets some kind of charge?

Tell me, what is so intriguing about going to a small town of 3,000 that swells to approximately 50,000 on this particular weekend?

Constantly bumping into people, being in a bar packed as tight as the 'abs' of a guy on steroids, and sleeping in a stranger's backyard, do not turn me on.

As all my friends did their last-minute running around, I was content not to

partake in the summer madness this year. "If you are not coming with us, what are you going to do," was a question posed to me quite often.

My response "I don't know," failed to satisfy them.

Strangely enough, without having to plan a thing, this long weekend was one of the most relaxing and interesting ones I've had.

There was no structure to my brief holiday and definitely no security guard telling me when I had to turn my music down.

I enjoyed my time thoroughly. Although I do have to admit that I fell prey to Grand Bend once again, but only for three hours.

On my final night of the long weekend I sat lucidly and watched the sunset.

And as the orange sun set into the purple horizon, I realized that another May long-run had faded into history, but another beautiful summer awaited me.

Do you have something to say?

Do you agree with an issue, or are you opposed to it?

## Be heard.

In 200 words or less submit your opinion to Spoke.

All letters must be complete with a full name and phone number for verification.

Submit to:  
Spoke office: Room 4B15  
or  
spoke@conestogac.on.ca

# SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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SPOKE is mainly funded from September to May by the Doon Student Association (DSA). The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of Conestoga College or the DSA. Advertisers in SPOKE are not endorsed by the DSA unless their advertisements contain the DSA logo. SPOKE shall not be liable for any damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space. Unsolicited submissions must be sent to the editor by 9:30 a.m. Monday. Submissions are subject to acceptance or rejection and should be clearly written or typed; a WordPerfect or MS Word file would be helpful. Submissions must not contain any libellous statements and may be accompanied by an illustration (such as a photograph).



## Profile

# A nurse's view on health care

By Anita Santarossa

The week of May 11-17 marked National Nursing week. The purpose of devoting a week to nurses was to warn people of the state of the present health care system.

Conestoga College held a nurses conference to raise awareness and celebrate the theme week.

I missed the meeting so I decided to speak with a registered nurse and instructor with Conestoga College.

Registered nurse Elizabeth Piccinin teaches two evening courses, health assessment and intravenous starts, to registered nurses at the Doon campus.

A graduate from Mohawk College, Piccinin currently works in the emergency department at the Grand River Hospital in Kitchener.

"Though I have a diploma, I've never really finished school because I have continued to take courses even after graduation and continue to do so today," she said.

Piccinin enjoys the emergency department because it is always a challenge and it allows her to keep up her skills. Currently, Piccinin is a part-time nurse.

"If I had gone fulltime I would have lost my job by now."

Because she is part-time she feels secure with her position at the present.

Many nurses are being forced into switching to part-time if they want to secure their jobs, said Piccinin.

"There isn't enough funds to cover full-time staff anymore."

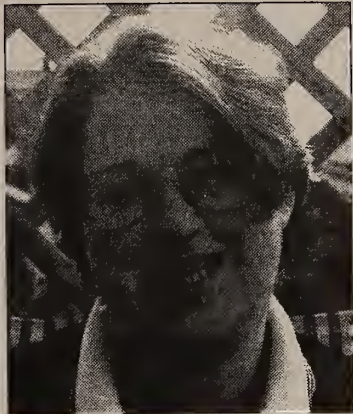
According to a study by the

Canadian Nurses Association, 10,000 registered practical nurses (RPNs) have lost their jobs in the last couple years because of government cutbacks.

The study also said there could be a country-wide shortage of about 100,000 nurses by 2011.

Piccinin said the ratio of nurses to patients is one to 12, but the problem doesn't lie in the numbers, rather in the condition of the patients.

"Before there were approximately four to five critical care patients out of the 12, now there are about



Elizabeth Piccinin, R.N.  
(Photo by Anita Santarossa)

eight to 10," said Piccinin.

"These critical patients need more care and nurses just don't have the time to accommodate all their patients anymore."

Piccinin said she feels the health care system will get worse before it gets better.

"Health care is falling apart at the seams right now."

But part of the problem with the declining system is how people

use it said Piccinin.

"We are a society of 'quick fixes' and a lot of people use the system when they shouldn't be."

She explained that people make inappropriate visits to emergency; they may just have a simple virus that could be cured with a little vitamin C, but they waste tax payers money with their phobias by making these unnecessary visits.

Another result of poor health care is the closing of Urgent Care Clinics on the weekends, said Piccinin. There is also a physician shortage.

So how have these changes affected patients?

Piccinin said patients don't get as much quality attention as they deserve because there just isn't any time.

"We give them the basics because there is no time for more than that," said Piccinin. "They are lucky to be fed and walked to the bathroom."

This lack of time frustrates Piccinin because medical treatment is the first priority, but many patients need more than just their medicine.

"Sometimes all they want is someone to talk to. We just don't have time to give extras anymore."

Today, hospitals are greatly relying on families, but Piccinin said that some don't have families and it is these patients who really suffer.

Though Piccinin disagrees with some of the cutbacks the government has implemented, she agrees with the amalgamation of services between hospitals.

"The bottom line is that patients need the care."

## OBITUARY

### Former part-time Spoke supervisor and prominent retired journalist dies

By Donna Fierheller

Lloyd Bibby, 84, a retired editorial writer at the Kitchener-Waterloo Record, who also helped supervise Spoke at Conestoga College, died at St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener on May 16, following several weeks of ill health.

Born and raised in Guelph, Bibby was an award-winning journalist who was well-known in southern Ontario.

He was a full-time editorial writer at the Kitchener-Waterloo Record from 1970-1979.

After his retirement he continued to write editorials for the Record until 1989, filling in for regular writers when they were on holidays.

For many years, Bibby was a judge for the Ross Weichel Opinion Writing Award, presented yearly to a Conestoga College journalism student. Bibby worked with the late Weichel at the Record, where Weichel was the editorial page editor.

Bibby taught part-time one semester at the college in the early 1980s, working as a supervisor of Spoke.

In later years, he occasionally offered advice to Spoke staffers by attending the Spoke weekly newsroom sessions, at which the previous week's paper is critiqued.

Prior to 1970, Bibby worked at the Guelph Mercury, where

he later became managing editor, and at the St. Thomas Times Journal, where he won a western Ontario journalism award for excellence in editorial writing.

In 1969, Bibby was publisher of The Guelph Review, a weekly newspaper he co-founded with John Scott, now an information officer with York Region, and Jerry Frank, now a journalism teacher at the Doon campus of Conestoga College.

Frank said, "I worked with Lloyd at three different newspapers. He was not only one of the finest people I've known, but he always offered me sound advice throughout my journalistic career."

Bibby, who was an aerial photography instructor during World War II before entering journalism, wrote notes for his own obituary six years ago, said Frank.

Bibby wrote that he "liked baseball and Bach, books and conversation, and disliked hard rock and laissez-faire politicians."

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie; son, Douglas and daughter-in-law Margie, of Ottawa; and grandchildren Kristin and Ian.

The funeral service was held May 20 at the Ratz-Bechtel Funeral Home in Kitchener, to be followed by cremation and interment in Guelph's Woodlawn Cemetery.



### Ahh, this is the life

Sally Sokram is a member of the support staff in the health sciences program at Conestoga's Doon campus. She is seen here relaxing under one of the trees by the pond during her lunch break on a warm and sunny May 14th day.

(Photo by Michael Hilborn)

### Letter to the editor

#### Daughter appreciates positive coverage of retired instructor

My name is Barb Hays and I am the daughter mentioned in your article of May 4, '98, "LASA instructor leaves job with 30 years of memories."

My mom forwarded your articles to me in Edmonton. I would like to say that I really appreciate the coverage of my dad's retirement in both the May 4 issue and the one on Sept. 22, '97, "LASA coordinator set to call it a career."

You have done my father justice, and I thank you for giving him the recognition he deserves. It's nice to see it in print.

Unfortunately, due to my military duties, I am unable to attend the retirement function on June 5, so if you could pass this on, I would appreciate it since I haven't seen dad since Christmas '97.

I grew up sort of knowing what my dad did for a living. When I was young, it never was quite clear. Memories of dad dressing up in a dress and a blonde wig, makeup and all, to test his students on their memory ability (you know, test the description of the robber idea). Anyway, it's one of those things that sticks in my mind.

I know that he also used the family, including the family

Dogs — Bimbo passed away so now Holly has taken her place. Somewhere, I'm sure, I've been used in some lecture.

Both my parents supported me in all my decisions, including joining the military, and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to both of them. I've always been proud of my dad and the pride he has always had for his job.

I remember him taking night classes to keep his own skills up to pass on to his students and the long nights he worked at home marking papers and assisting students in need.

Dad always encouraged myself and my brother to go all the way. I never appreciated it at the time but now, with a son of my own, I realize what my parents have done for me.

Dad's hard-working attitude and willingness to help rubbed off on me and I want to say thanks for everything. I'm proud to point to the articles in Spoke and say, "That's my dad!"

Congratulations, dad, you've worked hard and earned the time off.

Doobie (Barb) and your grandson, Cameron, Edmonton, Alberta





### Airborne . . .

A very agile Jug Vagha, third-year graphics art student at Doon, is playing hackysack with some of his buddies during his noon break on May 7.

(Photo by Jason Gennings)

### Bearing the burden

## Women taking care of seniors

By Melanie Spencer

With an aging population and an increase in hospital bed closures, more women are contributing to the unpaid care of seniors in Canada.

According to Statistics Canada's 1996 census, 381,885 women contribute 10 or more hours of unpaid care to seniors, compared to 182,675 men. In Ontario, 136,840 women, as opposed to 67,350 men contribute the same amount of time to the care of the elderly.

The trend of women as primary care-givers continues in Kitchener, where 3,930 women, compared to 1,910 men, contribute.

In 1991, according to A Portrait of Seniors in Canada, by Statistics Canada, 92 per cent of people 65 and over lived in a private household, of which 28 per cent lived alone and 8 per cent lived with members of their extended family.

This means that the home-care system is important because it allows people to remain in their homes and out of institutions. Without a care-giver, this might not be possible.

Heather Smith, 22, of London, Ont., is a registered nurse who has worked at the University Campus of the London Health Sciences Centre and the Mitchell Nursing Home. She said the role of the unpaid care giver is to assist with activities that agencies can't do.

"Home care agencies, such as the Victoria Order of Nurses (VON), tend to a person's physical health needs," she said. "There's a lot of activities to daily living that a person needs help with, like grocery shopping, banking and cleaning, that sometimes can't be covered even if a person has homemaking services."

This results in the growing problem of unpaid care for seniors for many reasons, one of them being two-income families.

With new medical treatments and breakthroughs, people are living longer, Smith said. It's also a problem because the eldest of the baby boomers are already 51 and in 14 years they'll be 65, said Smith.

That translates into 1,154,000 people between the ages of 65 and 69, by they year 2001, according to Statistics Canada.

This creates numerous dilemmas for seniors now and in the future.

Since budget cuts have left many hospital left many hospitals understaffed, the quality of care is not what it should be. Eighty-one per cent of registered nurses say they can no longer deliver safe care, according to the Ontario Nurses' Association's Saving Medicare Plan.

Because of cuts to the health-care system, hospital stays are shorter than they were five or 10 years ago, said Smith.

This forces many families to pick up the slack.

Even though there are families who want to take care of their elderly, not all families, however, have the knowhow to do so, she said.

Since it's traditionally women who are the primary care-givers, they are forced to make changes in their lives to be able to provide care for an elderly parent or relative.

According to the census, 47 per cent of Canadian women were forced to make changes in their social activities, and 26 per cent changed their holiday plans; seven per cent moved in with the person they were helping, while 15 per cent moved closer to them; and 42 per cent incurred extra expenses in the process of caring for the person.

Fifty-five per cent of female care-givers also had repercussions at work, such as arriving late or leaving early, and sometimes missing whole days.

These changes have also had an effect on the care-giver's health. Twenty-seven per cent reported that it affected their health and 31 per cent reported that their sleep patterns changed.

Hicks said with all of these factors considered, it seems that unpaid care-givers should be compensated for their efforts in some way.

"There should be a system in place so that care-givers can be relieved daily, for part of days or nights, as they do need relief," she said.

On Campus

## Doon crossroads hosts 6th annual firefighters muster

By Donna Fierheller

The sixth annual firefighters muster, games and parade was to take place at Doon Heritage Crossroads in Kitchener, on May 23, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The event, sponsored by the Waterloo Regional Fire Services Mutual Aid Association in co-operation with Doon Heritage Crossroads, was to have over 100 fire, ambulance and police vehicles taking part in the muster of emergency service vehicles, said the supervisor of activities at Doon Heritage Crossroads.

Wendy Connell, in an interview prior to the event, said old and new vehicles and apparatus were planned to be on display to emphasize the advances these services have made over the last century.

Connell said fire departments from all over Ontario would be competing in games of water-ball, bucket races and ladder and hose races at the event, which organizers anticipate will have been the largest gathering of fire engines and other

emergency service vehicles in all of Canada.

As well, demonstrations that focus on public education and safety were to take place during the day. Historical vehicles were featured in the parade.

Fire stations were the social hub and meeting place of the community during the nineteenth century, said Connell, and they were often the sponsors of parades, firefighter games, band competitions, equipment musters and charities.

Admission to the event was free with a donation to the Children's Safety Village Fire Education Centre in Cambridge, or to Waterloo Regional Mutual Aid Association for their defibrillator-training program for rural fire departments.

Free bus shuttle service was provided to the Crossroads location at Homer Watson Boulevard and Huron Road, from the visitors' parking area at Canada Alloy Castings and Waterloo Furniture Components, both located at the corner of Homer Watson Boulevard and Manitou Drive.

## Conestoga to pilot learning project

By Donna Fierheller

Conestoga College is one of eight Ontario post-secondary institutions to be approved for government funding to pilot new initiatives for students with specific learning disabilities, said Conestoga's coordinator for special needs.

Marian Mainland said Ontario Minister of Finance Ernie Eves made the announcement when the budget was brought down on May 5.

The amount of funding Conestoga will receive for the project, and what it will cover, is expected to be released by June 1, after negotiations are finalized, said Mainland.

Mainland also said local government officials from each com-

munity the institutions are located in will announce the finalized deals. In total, 22 colleges and universities

had submitted proposals and applications for funding to the Ontario government, said Mainland.

An article by Luisa D'Amato, in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record on May 6, said the University of Guelph will also receive funding for a pilot project "to help learning-disabled students make the transition from university life to the workplace."

The article states, "The UG (University of Guelph) proposal would educate employers as well as ensure that these students get workplace experience before graduation, so they can be better prepared."

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# Open house remembers 'Summer of Love'

## Kitchener student resource centre celebrates 30th anniversary

By Jeannette Altwegg

The Human Resource Centre for Students in Kitchener celebrated its 30th anniversary on May 15 with an open house and a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

About 30 people attended the open house at the Kitchener Market Square and supervisor Chris Bates said he was very pleased with the turnout.

"It's very good promotional-wise that our community is interested in the student centre," Bates said in an interview following the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Special guests attending the open house were Kitchener-Waterloo riding MPs Karen Redman and Andrew Telegdi, and Lynn Meyers, MP for the Waterloo-Wellington riding.

Bob Irwin, director of the Kitchener management area for Human Resources Development Canada, and Jeff Short, youth initiatives consultant from the regional office in Toronto, also attended the event.

The first resource centre was opened in 1968 and staff greeted their visitors with their versions of '60s costuming, the theme of the open house being "Summer of Love."

Bates said he wanted visitors to remember their first summer job and what they were doing in '68, the summer of love.

Waterloo councillor Bruce Anderson also attended the open house. He said he got his first job through the student resource centre in 1970 and encouraged students to use its services, no matter how small or inconsequential the work may seem.

"The one nice thing about the student resource centre is that you can do a variety of different jobs," he said in a brief talk before the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "Any job you can get you can gain valuable experience from, no matter what age you are."

HRDC director Bob Irwin said the one constant over the last 30 years is that students really need



From left to right: Waterloo council representative Bruce Anderson; Waterloo-Wellington MP Lynn Meyers; Kitchener-Waterloo MP Karen Redman; Liberal MP Andrew Telegdi; and HDRC director for Kitchener Bob Irwin cut the ribbon at the Human Resource Centre for Students at the Kitchener Market Square. The 30th anniversary open house was held on May 15. (Photo by Amanda Fickling)

summer jobs.

With rising costs of tuition fees and the prospect of having to graduate with horrendous debt loads, said Irwin, summer jobs will go a long way to help that.

"It's a win-win situation," he said. "Students not only get money and work experience, but employers get very valuable assistance over the summer, particularly over a period which is traditionally high in annual leave for regular employees."

Kitchener MP Karen Redman also said she remembers how important her first jobs as a councillor at camp and a lifeguard at the municipal pool were to her.

Redman said she thinks it's terrific that the resource centre is helping students get a leg up.

"I especially love this partnership with Lutherwood because we're looking at harmonizing rather than duplicating provincial efforts and money."

Redman said she thinks the resource centre is good news for so many reasons, the main one being that it's a venue for employers who are looking to hire young people for the summer.

"It's really the key element to breaking the cycle of where, if you have no experience you can't get a job and you can't get a job without experience," she said.

Another key, Redman said, is that the resource centre gives students, even if they haven't had any prior job experience, the opportunity to gain a meaningful background to build on experiences that help

flesh out future resumes.

"It involves the community and it engages the community," Redman said. "It makes me very proud of this area to know that the employers step up to the plate and offer the students employment placements."

Since its official re-opening on May 1, the resource centre has already supplied 130 students with jobs and is still looking for about 400 more students to be placed, Bates said.

"It's our job, as a summer employment office, to incorporate the community, employers, and students," Bates said, adding that this is being done through offering information sessions at schools and student employment offices in the community.

Speaking on such work-related topics as resume writing, job searching, and the interview process, the resource centre is mostly funded through federal money, said Helen Lau, an employee at the centre.

Lau, who represents the Lutherwood resource centre, said students who come to the resource centre in Kitchener can easily find out about available jobs.

"We list all jobs on our bulletin board," said Lau, "what the job is, what responsibilities it includes, what the duties are, and even how to apply."

Students can come to the centre any time to find out what jobs are currently available, she said, or they can call the jobline at 571-6667.



Chris Bates, supervisor of the student resource centre, welcomes visitors to the open house in his outfit reminiscent of the late '60s.

(Photo by Anita Santarossa)

## Resource centre helps students in their summer job search

By Jeannette Altwegg

The Human Resource Centre for Students has been serving communities across Canada since 1968 and celebrated its 30th year by holding an open house at its newest location in the Kitchener Market Square.

Helen Lau, who works at the student employment office as a representative of the Lutherwood resource centre, said the centre not only offers students services, but also helps businesses in the community.

"We get businesses involved through advertising and a lot of phone-calling to let them know about our services," she said.

The resource centre offers services to students and youth aged 15 to 24 who can access any kind

of job information - from what jobs there are available in the community, to responsibilities and duties involved, and how to apply, by going in or by calling the jobline number at 1-519-571-6667.

"We get businesses involved through advertising and a lot of phone-calling,"

Chris Bates, supervisor

Another service the resource centre offers is the odd-job squad. Students who may just have one day off, can call the resource centre, at (519) 744-

8151, to see whether there are any employers who need someone for the day, Lau said.

"Students call first thing in the morning at 8:30 a.m. if they're free for the day in case an employer calls, we can refer the student," said Lau.

On another note, resource centre supervisor Chris Bates said he's trying to get the resource centre into the Guinness Book of World Records for helping students find summer jobs. He said he wanted to be the number one in finding jobs for students.

When asked whether he was serious, Bates replied "We're dead serious! We've already received a counter proposal and we're still in the process of working on it."



# College education called a 'good deal'

Despite tuition deregulation college is a bargain, agrees DSA president Kristin Murphy

By Amanda Fickling

Conestoga College's DSA president believes that going to college is a really good deal.

Despite the tuition deregulation announcement made recently by the government, Kristin Murphy said the cost of certain programs at Conestoga College isn't bad at all. He said some courses benefit more so than others.

"Everything we (the college) have is so up to date. People look at the computer systems and are amazed," said Murphy.

He said Conestoga College is

very lucky because of the money it has. He also stated Conestoga is in a perfect location for growth.

"This is technology central for Canada."

He agreed with the statement that Conestoga College president John Tibbits was quoted in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record as saying, "Conestoga's deal is a bargain."

Murphy noted students are still only paying 10 to 12 per cent of what it costs to send a student to school. He said students haven't really complained about the deregulation of tuition.

"Students have fallen into a trend. Students are accepting increases in tuition because they are so used to it."

"This is technology central for Canada."

Kristin Murphy

Murphy said colleges are allowed to deregulate 15 per cent of their programs. For deregulation to occur a program

has to be more costly to run, or have graduates who will find a job easily. He cited Sheridan College as an example of deregulation. He said the graphics animation program will be raised because it is one of the best in the country.

One of the concerns of deregulation is that qualified students will not have the opportunity to attend college or university because of the expenses, said Murphy.

The Ontario and Undergraduate Student Alliance and the Ontario Community College Student

Parliamentary Association collectively addressed a letter to the Minister of Education and Training outlining their fears of deregulation.

The main point raised in the letter was that it was essential that everyone be granted an equal opportunity for education. The groups also want to protect the economic future of Ontario.

Recently, the student association had a forum with David Johnson, minister of education and training. Johnson said there will be a cap put on tuition so it doesn't get out of hand, said Murphy.

## More News

## College council plans for more effective talks

By Amanda Fickling

Potential effects of deregulation of tuition and better communication of council among college staff are two items the College Council has decided to concentrate on in the next 12 months.

These two issues, among others, were discussed at the most recent College Council meeting on May 11 in the Guild Room in the Student Client Services Building on Doon campus.

Two important questions were posed to the group by vice-chair Greg Burns. How could the council make their meetings more effective and valuable in its use of time, and what issues should the college council be tackling in the next 12 months?

Burns led the council through an exercise called SWOT. SWOT stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Burns noted that he has previously used the exercise on his students. The procedure had the council put their answers to the questions on a piece of paper which were then posted for everyone to see.

"The drill allows each person an opportunity to say things and be anonymous about it," said Burns.

As the activity proceeded, certain issues were apparently more important than others.

"We can collectively an individually put ideas together," said Burns of the procedure.

One council member suggested the group would benefit by having a student representative. The idea was expanded by suggesting council should have a DSA member attend the meetings and offer input.

Degree-granting status was another issue raised. With degree-granting status certain programs would be awarded degrees instead of diplomas. College Council questioned how they could take an active role in this situation. President John Tibbits noted that he is pushing the idea of degree-granting status, "and I'm pushing hard," he said.

Tibbits said the council should be a forum for bigger ideas. The council should be coming to grips with bigger issues. In the same vein, Joan Magazine, academic support and student services, wondered how the council could become more visionary. Burns agreed by stating that the council is not just a maintenance council.



## Bodies scarce in LRC

LRC co-coordinator Jill Douglas works in the almost abandoned learning resource centre the Friday before the Victoria Day long weekend.

(Photo by Casey Johnson)

## CD Review

Who says nice girls can't be aggressive?

## Tura Satana find Relief Through Release

By Lisa Roberts

Whoever said that nice girls don't get angry or express any kind of aggressive behavior will be in for a shock. The new Tura Satana CD, *Relief Through Release*, is out to shatter that myth.

The album was originally released in Europe in September 1997, but because of record company mishaps, North American fans had to wait patiently.

*Relief Through Release* is the Los Angeles-based group's second effort, available on Noise Records. The band has gone through its own releases during the process of making and distributing the album.

Originally known to the music world as Manhole, the group had to change their name after another similarly named group claimed the rights to the monicker. As well, original guitarist Scott Leda left

the fold earlier this year.

The album's leadoff singles include the tracks *Luna* and *Scavenger Hunt*. Finding her own release through raw lyrical sincerity, vocalist Tairrie B. alternately purrs and screeches about the pains of relationships - both romantic and personal.

Dry, the third track from the album, is a startlingly honest recollection of the sexual abuse Tairrie suffered at the hands of her mother when she was younger. After five minutes of lyrically turning the tables around on her abuser, Tairrie vents her frustration by vomiting.

Venus Diablo and Omnia Vinat Amor (Italian for "love lives forever") explore the duality that exists within relationships. One, simply cannot look at one side of the story when it comes to personal involvement with someone, and Tairrie forces listeners to scrutinize all sides with aggression and integrity.

Relapse is a track that appeared on the group's first effort, *All Is Not Well*. The song, originally titled *Sickness*, has been redone and updated to suit the desolation and aggression that is a recurring theme throughout *Relief Through Release*.

If you are a fan of aggressive girl-group sounds, such as Hole and Babes In Toyland, Tura Satana's new album would sit comfortably in your record collection.

Rating:☆☆☆

## CD rating system:

- ☆☆☆☆ - Steal this disc!
- ☆☆☆☆ - Go buy it. Now.
- ☆☆ - Keep this for nostalgia.
- ☆ - Use it as a coaster, frisbee, etc.

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